की पूर्ति करता है तो यहां पर टेक्नोलोजिकल रिपोर्ट चाहिए या सिक्यरिटी फेक्टर चाहिए और अगर आपने यह जांच शुरू की है तो यह जांच कब से चल रही है तथा उसमें कितने दिन और लगेंगे ?

डा० अबरार अहमद : माननीय सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य बहुत अनुभवी हैं। जहां तक आपने कागज की बात कही है उसमें नोट बनाने के कागज को लेने के पहले सुरक्षा की बात पर आपत्ति उठाई है, माननीय सभापति महोदय, यदि नोट बनाने का कागज आसानी से किसी दूसरे को भी उपलब्ध हो जाए तो आप स्वयं इस बात को जानते हैं कि आगे की प्रक्रिया में भी निश्चित रूप से कहीं न कहीं, कोई न कोई तरीका आसानी से निकाला जा सकता है। इसलिए सुरक्षा का पक्ष देखना बहुत जरूरी है। जहां तक आपने यह पूछा कि यह कब से विचार कर रहे हैं तो इसके गृह मंत्रालय को हमने लिखा था, अभी हाल ही में उनकी रिपोर्ट हमें मिली है। बाहर की एक कम्पनी से कागज लेने का मैंने जिक्र किया है कि 20 प्रतिशत हम दूसरी कम्पनी से लेना चाहते हैं। इसके लिए हमने दो सदस्यों की एक कमेटी वहां भेजी थी जिसने अपनी रिपोर्ट दे दी है और वह रिपोर्ट प्रोसेस में है। जब रिपोर्ट पर सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से पूरा विचार कर लिया जाएगा तभी उस पर निर्णय लिया जाएगा।

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: I want to know from the Minister as to what action has been taken by the Government regarding the proopsal made by the Padamjee Pulp and Paper Mills, Pune, for printing currency notes. It has been pending since 1988.

डा० अबरार अहमद : माननीय सभापति महोदय, प्रस्ताव तो कई प्रकार के आते हैं लेकिन वित्त मंत्रालय जब तक उनको अपने मापदंडों के अनरूप सही नहीं समझे तब तक इस संबंध में कोई निर्णय नहीं ले सकते हैं।

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to know, when security factor would be taken care at Hoshangabad Paper Mills, why it is being rejected by the Home Ministry in other cases? What are the reasons? If the security factor could not be posing a threat to the Hoshangabad Paper Mills, why not to the other Mills also? That is my question.

डा० अबरार अहमद : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैंने पहले ही यह बात कही है कि होशंगाबाद की जो हमारी मिल है उसका हमने 1983 में माडर्नाइजेशन कर के केपेसिटी बढ़ाई है। इसकी 3.4 हजार मीट्रिक टन की क्षमता थी जिसको बढ़ा कर हमने 6 हजार मीट्रिक टन किया है। लेकिन कुछ ऐसे कारण रहे हैं जिससे हमारे प्रोडक्शन 6 हजार मीट्रिक टन नहीं हो पाया है। हमारी जो आवश्यकता है वह भी 6 हजार मीट्रिक टन की है। हमारा प्रयास यह है कि होशंगाबाद की जो हमारी क्षमता है उसके मुताबिक हम 6 हजार मीट्रिक टन उत्पादन कर सकें। उसी के अनुसार 1995–96 तक यह लक्ष्य है कि हम उस क्षमता के मुताबिक अपना उत्पादन कर सकेंगे। इस ओर हम प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 105.

*105. [*The questioner (Shrimati Chandrika Abhinandan Jain) was absent. For answer vide col.....infra*]

*106. [*The questioners (Chaturanan Mishra and Shri Gurudas Das Gupta) were absent. For answer vide col.....infra*]

*107. *The questioner (Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi) was absent. For answer vide col.....infra*]

Closure of India investment Centres

*108. SHRI E. BALANANDAN†

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the India Investment Centres have since been closed as part of a worldwide cost cutting drive;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri E. Balanandan.

(b) if so, whether accommodation rented for the Centre have since been surrendered;

(c) whether some of the accommodations are still being maintained by paying rent in foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes Sir, except the Office at Tokyo.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir, no vacant accommodations is being maintained by I.I.C.

(d) In view of (c) above, Question does not arise.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, I did not get the paper which seems to have been laid on the Table. So, I have not been supplied with the answer. Sir, my question is this. The Government of India's Investment Centre in New York has been closed since 1991 by the previous Government. And this Government is still paying for the building in New York, amounting to 8,000 dollars per month and, so far, they have paid for 18 months, that is, 1,14,000 dollars. Is it a fact that so much of money is being paid for an office which has been closed? If it is so why has the payment not been stopped and the building given up?

डा०अबरार अहमद : माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात पूछी है, क्योंकि आपने कहा कि स्टेटमेंट आपको नहीं मिला है इसलिए मैं विस्तृत जानकारी देना चाहता हूं।

The State Trading Corporation had taken an office on lease basis at 445, Park Avenue, New York on 15.9.1978 for a period of ten years at a base rental value of US $ 1,15,730/- per annum. In addition to the above rentals, the Corporation has to pay for electricity charges, service charges and the State taxes. The STC has sub-leased the accommodation to other public sector bodies in 1988. The STC's lease was further extended for a period of ten years at a rental value of US $ 3,65,000/- per annum. During the second tenure of the lease by the STC, one of the... *(interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: He goes on reading. The entire Question Hour will be over.

DR. ABRAR AHMED: They should know what the fact is.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You reply the supplementary.

DR. ABRAR AHMED: They should know what the fact is... *(Interruptions)*... They should know what the fact is... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You answer the supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, may I say something? You have already given the answer before you read out the paper. Can you kindly read out the answer so that the Members will know?

DR. ABRAR AHMED: They say that they have not got any statement in answer. I am giving some expected information... *(interruptions)*... They object that they did not get any answer of any statement. So, I am giving information as to the fact... *(interruptions)*... Only a few lines more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I say one thing? You have not read out a, b, c, answer which you have given here.

DR. ABRAR AHMED: During the second tenure of the lease of the STC, one of the sub-lessees was India Investment Centre who had occupied a part of the premises taken on lease by the STC. Since the Government had decided to close down the IIC office at New York and other places, the IIC at New York vacated the premises and handed it over to the STC, New York on 1st July, 1991 and paid rent for the period ending 30th June, 1991.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: I have been given some other papers. Now the question is, whether you are paying rent to other public sector companies which are using these offices.

I would like to know whether the Government takes steps to see that valuable foreign exchange, which is being unnecessarily spent, is saved. Will the Government take immediate steps to close down at least the office of our sub-lessee so that whatever money we may get can be saved by the Government.

डा० अबरार अहमद : मैंने अभी जो यह स्टेटमेंट पढ़ा था उसमें बहुत स्पष्ट है कि हमने यह फर्स्ट जुलाई, 1991 को वैकेट कर दिया और 30 जून, 1991 तक का किराया दे दिया। इसके बाद यह एस.टी.सी. के पास है और एस.टी.सी. उसको दुबारा से रेंट पर उठाने का प्रयास कर रही है। लेकिन एस.टी.सी. के लिए सीधे सीधे में रिस्पांसिबल या जवाब देने के लिए उत्तरदायी नहीं हूं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, I do not have anything.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, I want to know from the Minister—the Finance Minister is also here—that in these days when India wants to attract foreign capital, it is more important that centres like India Investment Centre become very active. All other countries—I have been in South-East Asia—have got very strong offices in the Western countries which provide a lot of details about their respective countries. Whenever we go abroad, there is hardly any Indian presence. If you go to an Indian Embassy, they cannot give you any information and if at all they give some information, it is out of date. Will the Finance Minister consider strengthening of these offices by posting people whom I would like to call 'the Economic Ambassadors' in these Western capitals?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: They do not require any office in Washington.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only a few seconds ase left.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, hon. Member knows the circumstances in which the offices of India International Centres were closed. These offices were closed by th Government of which the honourable Member was a part... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, this is not the reply. He has asked for foreign capital. We never asked for foreign capital... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMA: Question Hour is over. Now, Statement by Minister correcting answer to Question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New Electronic Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh

*101. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the cities and towns in Uttar Pradesh where new electronic exchanges are being set up currently;

(b) by when the work would be completed; and

(c) what is the number of applicants in Uttar Pradesh who have applied for a telephone connection till the end of the year 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The details of new telephone exchanges already set up being set up in the current year (1992-93) in Uttar Pradesh is given in the statement I attached (*See* below)